

crime bill initiatives, most notably the Community Oriented Policing Services program to help local and state governments hire more police.

The Senator from Delaware has long been a leader on Women's Health issues. He sponsored the Medicare Mammography Screening Expansion Act, which became law as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1998. For five years running now, he has authored the annual National Mammography Day. And, in 1998, the President signed into law a bill co-sponsored by Senator BIDEN, which required the creation of a breast cancer postage stamp, with proceeds from the stamp's sale going to breast cancer research.

Like many of his colleagues, the Senator from Delaware has had to triumph over adversity to attain his many professional achievements. The hardships faced and overcome by my dear friend and colleague include the injury of his sons and the death of his beloved first wife and infant daughter in an auto accident shortly after his election to the Senate in 1972, and his own recovery from two operations for a near-fatal brain aneurysm in 1988. Despite this tragedy and adversity, Senator BIDEN has never succumbed to pessimism or forgotten his role as a public servant. He has never ceased working to serve his state and his nation. He remains optimistic about America's future and his ability, working within the Senate, to improve his state and nation.

The Senator from Delaware has called serving in the Senate the greatest, most privileged post-graduate education in America. I think all of us will agree, Mr. President, that he has passed this education with flying colors. There is no more devoted, hard-working member of this body than Senator BIDEN. He is known for his integrity, bipartisan collegiality, and desire to serve the public good. These qualities will always be cherished in this body, as in all walks of life. For any young Americans seeking a public figure to emulate, I can think of no better role model than the Senator from Delaware. And that, Mr. President, is the greatest compliment I can think to pay my dear friend, Senator BIDEN. For 27 years, it has been my great honor and pleasure to serve with him and to count him as a friend. It gives me great pleasure to know that before he leaves this great institution, Senator BIDEN almost certainly will receive accolades on the casting of his 20,000th vote.●

COMMEMORATING CARLOS HATHCOCK II

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man of extraordinary courage. A fellow Arkansan. A soldier and a hero. His name was Carlos N. Hathcock II.

Carlos was born on May 20, 1942, in Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of a welder. At the age of eight, Carlos saw his first Marine in full uniform. The sight left an indelible impression—a

mark that would lead him to commit his life to the military. But in the meantime, he had some growing up to do. Carlos spent a great deal of time in the woods of North Little Rock, hunting squirrels and rabbits and bringing them home to eat. He had no problem filling the table. It seemed as if he was anticipating his future career.

Carlos could hardly wait to start his career in the military. In May 1959, at the age of seventeen, he signed up with the Marines with the permission of his father. The moment he turned eighteen, Carlos went into the Corps. He quickly realized his talent as an effective rifleman and began to carve out his niche in the Marines as a sniper. The intramurals of the Marine Shooting Team was his first official match, a match that he won handily. This victory would certainly not be the last. Carlos won many more shooting competitions and rose steadily through the ranks, with a only a few minor bumps along the way. Indeed, the months and years could be counted by championships and promotions, and marked by his marriage to his wife Jo and the birth of his son, "Sonny" Hathcock.

But soon enough, the skills of Sergeant Carlos Hathcock II were put to use and put to the test. In 1966, the Marines sent him to Vietnam. His tour of duty was no doubt difficult, but Carlos' amazing rifle skill made him a valuable asset to the Marines and an opponent to be dreaded by the North Vietnamese. For his great service, Carlos was presented with the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Carlos proved himself again on his fateful second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969. By this time, Carlos knew the sweltering jungles of Vietnam. He could become one with his surroundings. With painstaking patience, he crawled and lay in wait—his hands controlled, resisting the urge to scratch or stretch, his body still as death—until that moment when he struck. Carlos was an expert. He even gained a reputation among the Viet Cong who dubbed him "Long Tra'ng," or white feather, for the single white feather in his hat. But as precise and deadly as he was, Carlos did not enjoy killing people. In fact, he saved the lives of his comrades in the 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

On September 16, 1969, the amphibious assault vehicle Carlos was riding ran over a landmine and exploded. Carlos, sprayed with burning gasoline and his flesh melting away, focused only on helping his comrades. Carlos went back to the vehicle and dragged his companions away to safety. He was burned almost beyond recognition.

Fortunately, Carlos was able to recover. For his heroism in Vietnam, Carlos was awarded a Purple Heart and Gold Star. And with swift dedication, Carlos went back to the Marines, serving almost ten more years, retiring on March 1, 1975, after nineteen years, ten months, and five days of service. He had entered the Marines as a callow

youth and left a Gunnery Sergeant, a veteran, and a hero.

He carried on his patriotism and service to America, speaking at military gatherings and teaching his sniper skills to the Virginia Beach Police Department. And in 1996, he was again awarded for his heroism in Vietnam, this time with a Silver Star.

Carlos Hathcock II passed away on February 23, 1999. But he lives on in the minds of many. His son, Carlos Hathcock III, is also a gunnery sergeant in the Marines. The Marines have a library in Carlos' name and an annual award presented to the best marksman in the Marine Corps. Marksmanship of legendary proportions will remain synonymous with the name Hathcock.●

AGRICULTURE MARKET FAILURE PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 30, the Agricultural Market Failure Protection Act of 1999. The purpose of this bill, of which I am co-sponsor, is to protect farmers against income loss resulting from severe economic downturns and weather-related crop losses. In my view this legislation is very timely, considering the current status of our nation's agricultural economy.

We have been experiencing alarming economic conditions in the agricultural sector for over two years. A combination of declining crop prices, reduced yields, and unfavorable export markets have led to a substantial decrease in overall farm incomes. As a nation, we often forget how important it is to protect the vitality of our agricultural producers. We do not want to wait until farms disappear and our supermarkets can no longer stock their shelves to address this situation.

Farmers in my own state of Maryland are not immune to the effects of this crisis. Over the past two years, they have been hit hard by low commodity prices and a widespread drought that has destroyed a significant number of crops. The Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service reports that total farm income fell \$8.2 million last year to \$265.4 million overall. This was a 3 percent decline. Since 1996, farm incomes in Maryland have fallen 26 percent. Prices for grain, corn, soybeans, and hogs are all down, some at 20 to 30 year lows. A recently published article from The Baltimore Sun illustrates the impact of this crisis on the economy of Maryland.

In an effort to address this decline, the Agriculture Market Failure Protection Act would revise marketing assistance loan rates, authorize six-month loan extensions, and amend the Internal Revenue Code to temporarily increase the number of years permitted for the carry back of net operating losses for certain farmers. In short, it would help prevent future income loss by giving farmers a chance to run their operations without constantly being at